

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00116 301947Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----091918 301948Z /45

O 301918Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7892  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0116

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SUMMARY FIRST DAY'S MALTA MEETING  
WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT

1. UK/US DISCUSSIONS WITH PF LEADERS NKOMO AND MUGABE  
OPENED JANUARY 30 WITH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS  
EXTENDING OVER 2 1/2 HOURS. THE TALKS WERE DIRECT,  
BUT NON-CONFRONTATIONAL; PRIVATE, SOCIAL MEETINGS WERE  
CORDIAL. AS PRIMARY SPOKESMAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY  
OWEN UNDERScored UK-US FIRM INTENTION TO PURSUE  
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. PF SIDE'S COMMENTS  
SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH:

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-- ITS SPECIAL STATUS AS FIGHTERS FOR ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE.  
CONSEQUENTLY, PF PRESENCE IN MALTA SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD  
AS COMPARABLE IN ANY WAY TO SALISBURY INTERNAL TALKS. FURTHER,  
PF WAS ENTITLED TO PROMINENT ROLE IN ANY TRANSITION  
ARRANGEMENTS.

-- THAT THE "CONDITION OF WAR" WHICH EXISTS REQUIRES THAT

THERE BE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS  
BEFORE AN CEASEFIRE IS AGREED UPON.

-- ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ON TRANSITION  
ARRANGEMENTS.

-- ITS EXPECTATION THAT UK-US WILL DO WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET  
SMITH TO LEAVE ONCE THERE IS AGREEMENT ON TRANSITION  
ARRANGEMENTS.

2. ON THAT BASIS, NKOMO OFFERED TO TABLE PF'S OUTLINE  
OF A TRANSITIONAL PLAN WHICH, MUGABE HINTED, WOULD  
LOOK TO A PROMINENT PF GOVERNMENTAL ROLE IN THE TRANSITION  
PERIOD. WITH SOME RELUCTANCE BECAUSE OF THE  
RIGIDITY WHICH A WRITTEN PLAN COULD INTRODUCE INTO  
THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, OWEN AGREED. PF PROMISED  
TO DELIVER THE PLAN EARLY JANUARY 31 FOR DISCUSSION  
AT RESUMED MEETING AT 10:00 A.M. SUBSTANTIVE  
COMMENT AND FULL ACCOUNT FOLLOW SEPTELS.  
LAINGEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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